

... in the petition, was unlawfully ...

After finding that 25 per cent of the population was in the labor force, I was not

"Now you get an idea," concluded salesman as he rounded up half a dozen children for a lone woman and then she went for tickets.

ing a bureau
not in favor
a marine base

The Constitution.

PUBLISHED DAILY, SUNDAY AND WEEKLY

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ATLANTA, GA., December 27, 1897.

The Wage Earners and the Republicans

The Cleveland Leader warns the workmen of the north that if they vote to put in power a party with which the ex-slave owners of the south sympathize, they simply vote for low wages.

We confess we cannot grasp this argument, and so have presented it in the hope that some of our readers may be able to untangle it. If parties make low wages, it may be said in behalf of the republicans that they have introduced the lowest scale ever known in this country. It cannot be presumed that the able editor of The Cleveland Leader will claim that the recent unprecedented reduction of wages in the north is due to the democratic party. That party has been out of the business of governing for nearly forty years. During all that time it has had but two opportunities to put its principles in operation. The first time it failed because one house of congress was in opposition. It failed the second time because the administration of its selection inaugurated the policy which Mr. McKinley is now trying to carry out.

That policy was most distinctly and unequivocally repudiated by the democratic party at Chicago in 1896. But the people—chiefly the very men who are now the worst sufferers—concluded to hold the party responsible for it in any event, with the result that McKinley was elected. No one needs to be told what has followed. Mr. McKinley is one of the most amiable of Americans, and besides, has a barrel of clever and consoling maxims always on tap. But he raised more wages and opened more mills on his front porch at Canton than he has since he became president.

He and his party find themselves compelled by the terms of Mr. Hanna's contract with the gold league to carry out Cleveland's deadly financial policy with the result that the country is in a worse condition, so far as its productive interests are concerned, than it has been since the collapse of 1893. Business is somewhat better off than it has been, due partly to the rise in the price of wheat, and partly to the prudence that impels business men to take in and adjust their affairs to suit the financial weather.

But if the world raises good crops of wheat next year, the business of the country will drop back to the old conditions and the productive industries will be in a worse state than they are now in. The republican and gold standard cotton spinners of New England have already announced their policy. They are not seeking remedies, they are merely trying to protect their interests against results for which they themselves are largely responsible.

They announce that their policy will be to recoup themselves from losses occasioned by unprofitable prices by reducing the earnings of their employees. This announcement is made by republican employers as the result of conditions that mark nearly a year of republican rule. Mr. McKinley has been comfortably seated in the executive chair in the midst of his maxima for ten months, and during that time the condition of the workmen and wage-earners of the country have been growing steadily worse. We have seen what has happened in the New England mills. That reduction is made notorious because circumstances make it necessary to give the facts to the public; but the great majority of wage reductions that have been brought about during the ten months of Mr. McKinley's administration cut no figure in the newspapers.

The policy announced by the New England manufacturers has been practically carried out in every department of productive industry. In thousands and thousands of cases, the earnings of employees have been cut off altogether. Thus The New York World states that there are a hundred thousand idle men and women in that city, and that proportion of idleness to the population will hold good in all parts of the country. We are told also, that thousands of wage-earners receive \$3 a week—a sum that will barely keep the wolf from the door.

that this condition of affairs exists after ten months of republican rule—exists and grows worse in the face of the fact that the workmen in response to the loud promises made by Mr. McKinley and the republican orators and editors voted to place the republican party in power. Does the able editor imagine that the wage-earners of the country would have been in any worse condition than they are now if they had voted the democrats into power? Or that their prospects for the future would have been any gloomier?

The republicans offered a remedy and the democrats offered one. The republicans, including Mr. McKinley, declared up and down that a protective tariff would open the mills to labor, make wages higher and give the farmers wider markets. The republican remedy has been tried, and it has failed in every particular. It has not opened mills to labor, and it has had any effect on wages it has lowered them.

The democratic remedy was to increase prices by reopening the mints to silver—to create into money that which is now a mere commodity. The most ignorant wage-earner knows that if manufacturers are getting good prices for their products they will increase wages rather than allow their machinery to stand idle as the result of a strike while their competitors are getting the benefits. The democrats proposed to raise prices by starting at the bottom. It proposed to create a demand for silver by coining it into money, and in this way increase its value. This would kill off the foreign competition that has been so disastrous to our agricultural interests. When farmers are getting 12-15 cents a pound for their cotton and \$1.25 for their wheat, they are selling at fair profits, and their returns enable them to stimulate by their expenditures every branch of productive industry, wages would go up, new enterprises would come into being, and all the energies of the people would have a wide and profitable field for their display.

The remedy offered and tried by the republicans has been and will continue to be a total failure. They have other remedies, but not in behalf of the people. They want to reform the currency, but in the interests of the money power. Mr. Gage has a measure which he declares is in behalf of the gold trust, for he says its purpose is to commit the country more thoroughly to the gold standard.

And there are other plans of reform, but they are all framed in the interest of the money syndicate of the financial centers.

It may be that the workmen of the country will allow themselves to be deceived again. If so, it will be their own fault.

Great Britain as a Purchaser.

Great Britain's dependence upon the United States is yearly becoming more pronounced. Not only in the purchase of agricultural and mineral products is that power becoming more and more dependent upon the American market, but also in the purchase of industrial and commercial products.

Much has already been said of the extensive purchases which Great Britain has recently made in this market of electrical outfit and supplies. Within the last five years the aggregate value of these purchases has mounted far up into the millions, and yet larger orders are being received from Great Britain at the present time than ever before.

The trade relations between the two countries is set forth in the following significant paragraph taken from a recent London dispatch:

Her majesty's stationery office, which supplies all the departments, allows common sense to take precedence over patriotism. The trade relations which the exclusive and old-fashioned of them all, grumbled upon making the shocking discovery, but one of the chiefs of the stationery department has been heard to say: "What a fuss about it! If we can get notepaper in America better and cheaper than the British manufacturers can supply, we will place our orders there."

Twenty years ago Great Britain would have been the ideal of buying manufactured articles in this market. With the arrogance which her industrial prestige brought to her she naturally looked with contempt upon the crude manufacturing enterprises of the United States. But the times have changed, and Great Britain is today one of the most extensive purchasers of American products. She buys coal, iron, bread-stuffs, electrical supplies, cotton, tobacco, paper and numerous other wares. What a splendid beginning for the power which once spurned our market!

The future of Russia. With the recent prodigious strides which have characterized the march of the Russian empire toward the goal of European supremacy which it seeks to be clearly aiming, there arises the pertinent question: What possibilities of development does the future hold in store for this vigorous giant of the north?

The occupation of Port Arthur by Russian war vessels during the past few days is significant not only as illustrating the designs of Russia with respect to the Aleutian coast, but also as shedding light upon the sleepless and aggressive spirit of the Russian empire. What dreams of imperial conquest and expansion may lie concealed in the heart of Russia are known only to the secret purposes of the great empire itself; but unless the character of recent events are woefully misleading, there is good reason to believe that Russia is preparing to wrest from Great Britain the scepter of acknowledged leadership among the powers of Europe which that empire has so long wielded.

Can any one who has made a careful study of the European situation during the past few years doubt the force of this conjecture? Consider the comparative weakness and inertia of the Russian government at the beginning of the present decade and then consider its amazing progress and wide-awake aggressiveness at this time. With out ignoring the colossal strides which this country has made in recent years, it must be conceded that the record properly belongs to Russia.

When the proposition to build the Trans-Siberian railway system was first sprung by Russia several years ago, the world received it with incredulity; but instead of being deterred by the world's lack of encouragement and sympathy

today the building of the Trans-Siberian railway system is not only assured, but already half completed. Before the present century expires, the work of building this gigantic railway will be complete in every detail, and Russia will be in actual possession of the great railway system of the globe. Extending from St. Petersburg, the capital of European Russia, to Vladivostok on the Asiatic coast, the system will measure a distance of 7,500 miles, or one-fourth of the earth's circumference. One purpose of Russia in taking possession of the Pacific is to secure another terminus for the system to be used interchangeably with Vladivostok. As the Trans-Siberian railway system is to penetrate throughout the entire length of northern Asia, with branch lines radiating into China and other countries to the south, it is evident that Russia is thus enabled to exercise a tremendous advantage over her rivals in both commercial and strategic operations.

But this is not the only gigantic enterprise which sheds light upon the future growth and development of Russia. Within the last few weeks elaborate plans have been devised for the building of a huge canal from the Baltic to the Black sea, to cost not less than \$100,000,000; and work on this canal is scheduled to begin during the early spring season. The canal is to be used for naval as well as for commercial purposes, and is to be deep enough to accommodate the most ponderous member of the Russian fleet. When completed, this immense waterway will give Russia direct access to the Mediterranean sea. In order to make the most of this southern outlet, Russia negotiated several months ago for the acquisition of Mount Athos, on the Mediterranean coast, and is already in possession of that important stronghold.

From this important survey of the situation it is clearly evident that Russia is bent upon making her imperial way more strongly felt than ever upon the world's affairs. Writing of the possibilities which lie before the empire, some clever Russian statisticians figure that within the next twenty years Russia's population will reach 175,000,000. Of course this calculation is purely speculative, but in view of what the past few years have witnessed in the marvelous growth and development of Russia, it is hardly safe to challenge the prediction.

In the meantime the civilized world can only watch with interest the constant changes which are going on in that wonderful empire's process of evolution.

At any rate, Mr. Gage has the courage of his conviction, and this is more than can be said for the rest of the republican leaders.

Let us hope that Mr. Wolcott is not niding.

It should be remembered that the purpose of the Cubans to execute whoever should come to the white flag for aid, is a widely known and advertised. The fate of Ruiz is on his own head. He was warned in time.

Minister De Lome is severe on American women, but he is still petted in Washington society. Is this because of the truth of the story that Spain has paid agents and attorneys in every department of the government?

It is not easy to forget that the republicans promised prosperity.

We trust Mr. McKinley found a mill-opener in his stocking.

MINES AND MININGS.

The fine weather which has lasted all through the fall and into the early winter has been favorable for prospecting and development work and it is still going on actively all over the country.

The year which is drawing to a close has seen more activity in mining, particularly in gold mining, in Georgia than has been seen in any other year since the war. Some sections, perhaps, have seen as much activity in a season as they have had this year, but take the field as a whole, and especially the Alabama and Georgia fields, and the activity has been more pronounced than ever before.

That is, the development work which has occurred has been for the purpose of getting the veins, and the placer work has had its days in this state at least, except in some few favored sections. The truth is, there is precious little virgin placer left. The veins, however, are still there, and many a man has gone into what appeared to be virgin ground and begun operations under the belief that he was to find ten feet below the surface old shovels and other implements which had been covered for possibly half a century. The result has been a dredge boat was uncovered on in a corn field. Many a piece of placer ground has been worked over three or four times and still looks on the surface as though it had never been touched.

The future of the southern gold field depends entirely on the development of the veins. If the government will send an expert metallurgist down here to study the ore, he may make some discoveries which will benefit the miners.

Dixie's mining editor says that it is child's play for a layman to take a sample of the chlorination process fills the bill. It has not been many months since Mr. Dixie wrote an article in which he said the chlorination process might do all right for some ores, as in Cherokee, for instance, but it would not answer in other sections at all. Which proposition he proposes to stand on is for him to decide. Dixie says The Constitution is engaged in booming the southern gold field.

A representative business man of Atlanta yesterday in the connection with The Constitution, is doing the south great good in calling attention to the gold fields and bringing capital into the mining section.

The Pope brothers have bought a tale property in North Carolina, a few miles north of Mount. The Southern Railway passes through the property. Talk, by the way, advanced \$3 a ton week before last. The North Carolina tale is white and the Georgia tale is apparently a gray. The post of it. They will put in Gillette mills and go to work just as soon as they possibly can. Talk is always in demand and there is a good profit in the manufacture.

Mrs. Titton, widow of the Major Titton, of the Georgia Railway, has a large order for her tale mine and has large orders to fill.

Mr. Teare and his associates have sold the manganese property at Drakestown to the Georgia Railway. They have a handsome price for it, too. Mr. Teare is also interested in the Georgia Railway. Klondike, as they call their mine in Paulding county. Mr. Teare showed some very rich ore while in Atlanta a few days ago.

Georgia Memorial Fund.
New York, December 21.—The committee having charge of the Henry George memorial fund have made another appeal for contributions. The fund has been organized to honor the great statesman, particularly to those who had ruled over us as governors. Of course, there were not enough governors to go around when it came to naming counties, towns and villages, so many of them were dubbed in honor of Georgia who figured prominently in our history.

JUST FROM GEORGIA.

It's Coming.

(By which is meant the New Year.)

It's coming—it's coming:

We know it.

Not by the rhymes

Of a poet;

Not by the rhymes

Of the soul-stirring rhymes;

But just by the sense

Of dollars and dimes;

It's coming—it's coming:

We know it!

It's coming—it's coming:

We know it;

The red-tinted calendars

Show it;

It's coming:

A-humming

Like regiments drumming!

It's coming—it's coming:

We know it!

It's coming—it's coming:

We know it

By the bills and the notes

That we owe it;

And O for the hills

That rise high o'er the hills,

Or the rocks that hide hundreds

Of moonshine stills,

To hide us away

From the bills—from the bills!

It's coming—it's coming:

We know it!

Echoes from Billville.

It was a very quiet Christmas. Very few

of our people were killed.

The only trouble about Christmas fireworks

is, there ain't fire enough in 'em to

make the pot boil the rest of the year.

The Billville orphans spent Christmas

trying to keep their fathers sober.

It's quite fortunate it only comes once

a year. A man couldn't afford to have a

leg shot off any oftener than that.

Our Christmas contribution to the heathen

will make 'em cheerful enough to murder

a few more missionaries.

Think of birds singing on Christmas day

in Georgia! And we killed enough of them

to adorn a thousand millinery hats.

Notwithstanding all the giving there

wasn't a Christmas tree that broke down

with the gifts.

Turn it!

Turn over the leaf—the new—

Who knows, as the time goes by,

It may burst to a blossom for you—

A blossom that shall not die.

Turn over the leaf,

For time is brief.

And the stars fade from life's sky.

Know all men by these presents that a

great many Christmas folks feel like going

into the hands of a receiver now.

F. Marion Crawford, the prolific novel

writer, says "this world is full of subjects,"

but he doesn't state whether they

are subjects for the lunatic asylum or

congress.

An Echo of It.

Christmas comes but once a year—

Comes, but never stays.

"Honor bright now."

"Make it light now."

"Ten, or thirty days!"

Well, take it all in all, it was a quieter

Christmas than usual. Very few people

celebrated the birth of Christ by killing

each other.

Don't grumble at the Christmas bills;

they don't worry the children at all.

There was really more genuine merriment

in the little tin horn than we've ever been

able to extract from a brass band.

"Here's Hopin'!"

"New Year, coming up the slope,

Do you bring us aught of hope?"

And the answer thrills and chills:

"Hope you'll pay the Christmas bills!"

Atlanta's Christmas present was a half-

dozen sky-scraping buildings.

Out of so many Christmas trees we ought

to be able to turn over a new leaf or two.

The signal service boys won't make any

mistakes when they get on top the new

Commercial building. They'll be right

where they make the weather then.

F. L. S.

APROPOS OF NOTHING.

In response to an inquiry of a correspond-

ent, The Constitution printed yesterday

a list of all the governors of Georgia since

1732. It was not quite clear for want of

information, if the list of governors who

have ruled over the destinies of the good

old state for 165 years can be of service

to the public, or if the list of the problem

as to who will be the next governor, he is

welcome to the information. If it was

for the mere purpose of settling a wager,

as many newspapers are wont to be, let

us, let us hope the anxious inquirer won't

be misled by the information. The list of

governors of Georgia, as far as we know,

patriots first, and the great men of other

states second.

It may or may not be very generally

known, but it is claimed in point of truth,

that the picturesque little town of Wash-

ington, Ga., was the first village in the

early days to be given the name of George

Washington, the great father of American

independence. The dates to justify this

claim are not readily at hand, but it has

never been denied, and when such state-

ments pass unquestioned for a hundred

years or more they must be taken as true—

that's the way history is made.

Lincoln county was not named for Abra-

ham Lincoln, as the careless may suppose,

but for General Lincoln, of revolutionary

fame. Hart county, as is known, was

named for Nancy Hart, the daring heroine

of her log-cabin home, who with rum and

rifle mastered a gang of Tory spies in

colonial times by getting them slightly

jagged while waiting for promised dinner,

and then turning upon them with a long-

barreled rifle of olden make, killing a few

and putting the others to flight.

Anybody can tell the significance of the

nomenclature of Liberty county and Colum-

bia county. No matter whether they be

put down on the map in red or green, blue

or yellow, they stand for patriotism, cour-

age, bravery, pride and freedom.

The rivers of Georgia, for the most part,

bear Indian names. Several counties, like

Wilkes, stand out on the map recording with

their sweet, flowing names the memory of

the Cherokee—a departed people whose

lives, a pathetic, mysterious mystery, fill

just a few pages of American history.

The list of Georgia's governors when

scanned brings to mind the uncomforn-

table of the state's political government.

One hundred and forty-six, long weary

years ago the first general assembly ever

called to meet in Georgia said its prayers

and began work in a shabby little shanty

of a house down in Savannah. There is a

third echo to the sentence uttered now—so

the little is known about the incident, for

the names of the members of the first legis-

lature were put in print and paraded before

workaday world of these few decades

ago, they would count for nothing more

than mere shadows of type—given to weight

the statement down with a historian's ac-

curacy. There were two counties in

Georgia, each of which had a president and

several councillors. The counties were

united in one executive in 1743, so history

relates, the present of Savannah county

having charge of the whole till 1750. It was

on the 15

anta—15-17 Whitehall.

